

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 004217

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL  
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)  
SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

-----  
HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS  
Bob Kerrey: U.S., Turkey should organize Iraq summit in  
Istanbul - Hurriyet  
Iraq turning into Chechnya - Vatan  
Saddam's \$140 million sent to U.S. Treasury - Vatan  
Ret. Gen. McCaffrey: U.S. will stay in Iraq for ten years -  
Sabah  
Gul: Repentance Law aims to end terror - Turkiye  
Erdogan: Turkey's military favors EU - Milliyet  
Portugal supports Turkey's EU drive - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS  
Bush: We won't leave until Iraq is free - Radikal  
Bush: Change in Iraq will take time - Zaman  
Americans think Bush exaggerated facts on Iraq - Cumhuriyet  
Powell: Elimination of Saddam removed a threat to Israel -  
Zaman  
British union: Blair a war criminal - Cumhuriyet  
Labor unions parting ways with Blair - Radikal  
Algeria releases FIS leaders - Yeni Safak  
Berlusconi supports Turkey at European Parliament - Radikal

BRIEFING

Turkey, U.S., Iran cooperate against KADEK: Turkey is  
cooperating with the U.S. and Iran in order to bring an end  
to PKK/KADEK terror in Northern Iraq, papers report.  
Following the advice of Washington, Ankara is about to pass  
an 'amnesty law' to convince PKK militants to lay down their  
arms and return home. About half of the estimated 4,500 PKK  
militants in Northern Iraq have not been involved in armed  
attacks, and they will be allowed to return to their  
families, a senior diplomatic source told the press. Turkey  
has asked the U.S. and Britain to take action against KADEK,  
and urged Iran to acknowledge that KADEK is a terrorist  
organization. Militants who fled to Iran out of fear of a  
possible U.S. operation engaged in clashes with Iranian  
soldiers last weekend.

Scope of Repentance Law: "Cumhuriyet" suspects that the  
'Repentance Law' drafted by the AKP government might pave  
the way for pardoning fundamentalists as well. The paper is  
concerned that fundamentalists who killed secular Turkish  
intellectuals in Sivas in 1993 might benefit from the bill.  
Cumhuriyet points to the fact that only 775 terrorists had  
applied to benefit from similar laws passed since the 1980s.  
Meanwhile, the Kurdish-based party DEHAP collected one  
million signatures in a campaign for expanding the scope of  
the draft law to a general amnesty for all PKK militants.  
U.S. prefers Pole instead of Turk for NATO post: The U.S.  
has decided to support the Polish candidate for the post of  
NATO Deputy Secretary General instead of a Turk due to the  
disagreement between Washington and Ankara over the Iraq  
crisis, a "Hurriyet" columnist reports. The U.S. also backs  
Greek Foreign Minister Papandreou as the new NATO Secretary  
General in 2004. The article expects Turkey not to object  
to Papandreou, a facilitator of problem-solving between  
Turkey and Greece, as the new NATO chief.

New package of EU reforms: Dailies think that a 7th EU  
adjustment package drafted by the government includes

`revolutionary' changes to make a `civilian and liberal' society a reality. The new package envisages stronger measures to prevent torture and expand freedom of expression, and a more civilian National Security Council (NSC). Foreign Minister Gul said details of the 7th package would be disclosed next week.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION:

-Pakistan

-Iraq

#### "Pakistan and Israel"

Fikret Ertan wrote in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (7/3): "Pakistan finally felt the need to revise its Israel policy in light of the new developments in the Middle East. General Musharraf has made some important statements which no previous Pakistani would have dared to make. . . Musharraf's encouragement of Pakistan's recognition of Israel is open to two interpretations. One view is that Musharraf sincerely feels the need for a change of policy. The other possibility is that Musharraf is taking US pressure into account. . . The fact is that Pakistan's Israel policy requires an urgent change, but Islamist groups in Pakistan will not allow it to happen. The immediate reaction has already been seen among opposition groups. In fact, the Pakistani opposition must address the dilemma that Pakistan is facing: India has strategic relations with Israel, so how logical and sensible is it that Israel does not exist for Pakistan?"

#### "Dancing with the US"

Soli Ozel commented in mass appeal Sabah (7/3): "Turkey has missed the chance to have a say in northern Iraq by not acting together with the US during the Iraq war. At the same time, however, Turkey to a great extent has learned to evaluate the Iraq issue beyond the narrow prism of hypothetical scenarios about the Kurds. The Turkish Foreign Ministry has finally started creating policies for all of Iraq as opposed to limiting itself to a northern-Iraq obsession. This will help Turkey not only in its relations with the US but also in the formulation of a better foreign policy. This step is long overdue."

PEARSON